

again. I will object at this point, but if he will withhold, because I understand there may be more objections, I will check that out.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I withdraw my unanimous consent request. I also assure the majority leader that if it appears as if there is going to be an avalanche of relevant amendments to which we cannot get time agreements, then I am not interested in tying up the entire Senate on that legislation. But I do believe that it is important that we take it up, obviously. I am grateful the other side doesn't object to the unanimous consent agreement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee is recognized.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 15 minutes as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, when the conference report arrives, I will terminate my comments.

THE SAFETY AND HEALTH OF AMERICA'S CHILDREN

Mr. FRIST. Amidst all of the proposals and discussions and objections and debate that has gone on here on the floor, I rise to talk about a bill that has been very positive, which demonstrates the best of what this body is all about—a pulling together and working together across the aisle in a bipartisan way, all with the goal of making others' lives more fulfilling, both in the current generation and in future generations. This week, the U.S. Congress has sent to the President of the United States for his signing a comprehensive bill that very much forms the backbone of efforts to improve the safety and health of America's children.

This bill that has been sent to the President focuses on our children's health, the Children's Health Act of 2000. It was more than a year ago that Senator Jim JEFFORDS and I reached out across the Capitol to Chairman BILLEY and Representative BILIRAKIS to work together in a coordinated way on a whole variety of issues and bills that are critical to children's health and safety. These included such issues as maternal and infant health, day-care safety, pediatric research, pediatric health promotion, and efforts to fight drug abuse and provide mental health services for young people today. I am delighted that both the House and the Senate have passed this bill, that it has been sent to the President, and that we were successful in achieving our goal.

The bill addresses a range of issues. Just to give some flavor of this bill and what it can achieve, what it will achieve, what it does achieve in its language, let me comment on a few.

Day-care safety. Currently, there are more than 13 million children 6 years

of age and less who are enrolled in day-care centers. Almost a quarter of a million are in Tennessee. One provision in this bill, the Day-Care Safety Act, recognizes the need to make these settings safer, improving the health and public welfare of children in day care. Parents should simply not be afraid to leave their children in the morning when they drop them off in these day-care settings, fearing that a licensed day-care facility is not safe over the course of that day. This bill helps ensure that our childcare centers will be safer.

Secondly, children's health. Provisions included in this bill, the Children's Public Health Act of 2000, some of which were introduced July 13 of this past year—that I introduced with Senators JEFFORDS and KENNEDY—address a number of children's health issues, including maternal and pediatric health promotion and research.

Thirdly, traumatic brain injury. Traumatic injuries are the leading cause of death for every age group between 1 and 19 years of age. This bill strengthens the traumatic brain injury programs at the CDC, the National Institutes of Health, and the Health Resources and Services Administration.

Fourth, birth defects: Birth defects are the leading cause of infant mortality and are responsible for about 30 percent of all pediatric admissions.

This bill focuses on maternal and infant health. The legislation establishes a national center for birth defects and developmental disabilities at the CDC, the purpose of which is to collect and analyze and distribute data on birth defects.

Fifth, asthma. The bill combats some of the most common challenges, problems, and public health issues in children today. In terms of asthma, it provides comprehensive asthma services and coordinates a wide range of asthma prevention programs in the Federal Government to address this most common chronic childhood disease.

Mr. President, I am delighted that this bill has passed both of these bodies with this body working together in a bipartisan way.

I understand that we are about ready to begin on the conference report. Therefore, I will terminate my comments at this point, and later in the day, during morning business, will extend my comments on this very important bill.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FRIST). The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I will continue to work on this with Senator MCCAIN. I understand other Senators are coming to the floor to discuss the issues with him.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001—CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I submit a report of the committee of conference on the bill H.R. 4475 making appropriations for the Department of Transportation and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk reads as follows:

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill, H.R. 4475, having met, have agreed that the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate and agree to the same with an amendment and the Senate agree to the same, signed by all of the conferees on the part of both Houses.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of the conference report.

(The report was printed in the House proceedings of the RECORD of October 5, 2000.)

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, what is the pending business? Is there a quorum call?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The conference report on Transportation is the pending business.

Mr. SHELBY. I urge adoption of the conference report and ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

Mr. REID. Objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that following the completion of the vote, Senator HARKIN be recognized for up to 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.